Remarks

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner consider this Preliminary Amendment before issuing a First Office Action. By the foregoing Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-5 and 15, 18-20, 22, and 27 are amended and claims 6, 7, and 17 are cancelled. No new matter has been added, as the above limitations are disclosed in the specification as filed.

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in order for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made:

1. (Amended) A video imaging system, comprising:

a camera head for transmitting image data;

a camera control unit for receiving and processing said image data from said camera head;

a storage device accessible by said camera control unit;

a program stored on said storage device [containing a program];

said program executing on said camera control unit for enabling [modifying hardware of] said camera control unit to process said image data.

2. (Amended) The video imaging system according to claim 1, wherein said camera control unit comprises [at least one re] a configurable hardware device [from the group consisting of field programmable gate arrays, and computer programmable logic devices].

3. (Amended) The video imaging system according to claim 2, wherein said program configures said [re]configurable hardware device [of said camera control unit to enable it to process said image data from said camera head].

4. (Amended) The video imaging system according to claim 1, wherein said camera control unit comprises [at least one] a programmable hardware device [from the group consisting of digital signal processors and microprocessors].

5. (Amended) The video imaging system according to claim 4, wherein said program[mable hardware device executes said program to enable said camera control unit to process said image data from said camera head] programs said programmable hardware device.

15. (Amended) The video imaging system according to claim 14, wherein said camera head sends confirmation to said camera control unit that said commands were received [and said commands have been, or will be, executed].

18.   (Amended) The system according to claim [17] 1, further comprising software executing on said camera control unit for determining when said camera head is in communication with said camera control unit.

19.   (Amended) The system according to claim [17] 1, further comprising software executing on said camera control unit for downloading said program when said camera head is in communication with said camera control unit.

20.   (Amended) The system according to claim [17] 1, wherein the storage device is a remote location.

22.   (Amended) A video imaging system, comprising:

a camera for transmitting image data;

a camera control unit for receiving and processing the image data from said camera;

a storage device accessible by said camera control unit;

a program stored on said storage device;

software executing on said camera control unit for determining when said camera is in communication with said camera control unit;

[software executing on said camera control unit for receiving a program stored on said storage device when said camera is in communication with said camera control unit];

said program executing on said camera control unit for [modifying] configuring hardware of said camera control unit; and

said program executing on said camera control unit for enabling said camera control unit to process the image data.

27. (Amended) A video imaging system, comprising:

a camera control unit for receiving and processing image data;

a program for enabling said camera control unit to process the image data;

a configurable hardware device located on said camera control unit for process ing the image data;

a processor located on said camera control unit for executing said program; and

said program executing on said processor for [modifying] <u>enabling</u> said configurable hardware device and enabling said camera control unit to process the image data.

<u>In the Specification</u>:

Please replace the two consecutive paragraphs beginning on page 4, line 15 with the following amended paragraphs:

U.S. Patent No. 5,896,166 to D'Alfonso et al. ("D'Alfonso") relates to a video camera system for reading operating parameter information from a memory device located on the camera head and using the information to adjust the camera control unit [so that signals sent from the control unit to the camera head provide optimum operating conditions for the imager. The invention conditions the camera control unit to receive future image signals of a particularly type or protocol]. This [advantageously] permits interchangeable camera heads to be used with camera control units.

However, [the operating information for permitting such interchangeability is stored on the memory device, which is located on the camera head. Further,] the information is not transferred to, and stored on, the control unit to overwrite an overwritable or configurable portion of the control unit. [This disadvantageously

results in a need to transfer operating information back and forth from the camera head to the control unit. In addition to the image data and signals being transmitted back and forth from the camera head to the control unit, where image data typically consumes large amounts of memory, the transfer of operating information further undesirably slows the overall operation of the video camera system. Additionally,] D'Alfonso does not disclose a configurable or programmable hardware device [to which an application may be written or for overwriting an existing application]. Instead, D'Alfonso only requires reading information from a memory device, which is located apart from the control unit.